

Ambassador Chris Stevens will be remembered for his strong sense of dignity, his humility, and his generous service to others. He will be truly missed by all who loved him and by all he served through the magnitude of his life's work.

HONORING MR. JOE WILLIE
"PINETOP" PERKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the best blues pianists known, Mr. Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins.

Pinetop was born Joe Willie Perkins in Belzoni, Mississippi, on July 7, 1913. Pinetop dropped out of school after the third grade. He taught himself the rudiments of blues guitar on a homemade instrument called a diddley bow: a length of wire stretched between nails driven into a wall. He began entertaining at dances and house parties at age 10 and soon learned to play the piano as well. While still in his teens he left Mississippi and traveled to Chicago. But he came back to Mississippi and didn't decide to make Chicago his home until the 1950s.

He worked primarily in the Mississippi Delta throughout the 1930s and '40s, spending three years with Sonny Boy Williamson on the King Biscuit Time radio show on KFFA in Helena, Arkansas. Pinetop also toured extensively with slide guitar player Robert Nighthawk. After briefly working with B.B. King in Memphis, Pinetop "barnstormed" the South with Earl Hooker during the early '50s. The pair completed a session for Sam Phillips' famous Sun Records in 1953. It was at this session that he recorded his version of "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie," a song originally written and recorded by pianist Clarence "Pinetop" Smith—the influential blues pianist who died from a gunshot wound at age 24 in 1929. Willie Perkins was already being referred to as "Pinetop" when he played on King Biscuit in the '40s, but it was his sensational version of this song that secured him the lifelong nickname of "Pinetop."

Pinetop Perkins started out playing guitar and piano at house parties and honky-tonks. In the 1940s, he had to drop the guitar due to an encounter with an outraged chorus girl in a Helena, Arkansas, nightclub when she knifed him, leaving him with severed tendons in his left arm. That dashed his guitar aspirations, but Pinetop came back strong from the injury, concentrating solely on piano from that point on.

Pinetop is known for holding down the piano chair in the great Muddy Waters Band for twelve years during the pinnacle of Muddy's career. Replacing Otis Spann in 1969, Pinetop helped shape the Waters sound and anchored Muddy's memorable combo throughout the '70s with his brilliant piano solos. In 1980, Pinetop and other members of Muddy's crew struck out on their own and formed the Legendary Blues Band—a group that recorded two records for Rounder and toured extensively, culling several Grammy nominations.

After being labeled a sideman for most of his career, Pinetop eventually left the Leg-

endary Blues Band to concentrate on solo work. Within two years, he had cut his first domestic record as a frontman and pursued an ambitious tour schedule. He was featured on several nationally syndicated news and music programs, and appeared in numerous movie productions and TV and radio ads.

The great irony of Pinetop's career is that he didn't blossom as a headliner until his eighth decade on the blues scene—a phenomenon that resulted in the release of 15 solo records in 15 years, beginning in 1992. On his 1998 release, "Legends," Pinetop collaborated with master blues guitarist Hubert Sumlin. Together, they blended the traditional Delta blues sound with modern electric blues rock, showcasing the spirit and energy of the music. "Born in the Delta" and "Legends" were both nominated for Grammy Awards—in 1997 and 2000 respectively. This was followed by a 2005 Grammy nomination for "Ladies Man," released by MC Records. That same year, he was also presented with a lifetime achievement award at the Grammys.

Aside from his well-deserved Grammy recognition, Pinetop also received a National Heritage Fellowship in 2000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been featured in the documentary "Piano Blues," directed by Clint Eastwood for the Martin Scorsese PBS series, "The Blues." In addition, he continued to win the Blues Music Award for best blues piano every year until 2003, when he was retired from the running and the award was renamed the Pinetop Perkins Piano Player of the Year.

In 2007, he was still on the road at 94 years old; Pinetop Perkins' unique life was chronicled in Peter Carlson's biographical documentary DVD, "Born in the Honey," which includes a live CD with a rare studio outtake track.

"Pinetop Perkins and Friends" released on Telarc, an independent classical recording company that crosses over to include blues and even jazz music. In that release by Telarc in the summer of 2008, Pinetop was positioned in the midst of several high-profile guests—all of whom have been influenced by his music in some way or another over the past several decades. Included on Pinetop's list of Friends were such luminaries as Eric Clapton, B.B. King and Jimmy Vaughan.

His latest recording is "Joined at the Hip," a collaborative project with Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, released in June 2010. Pinetop also received a Grammy in 2010 for this collaborative project with Willie "Big Eyes" Smith for Best Traditional Blues CD.

Pinetop passed away on March 21, 2011, at the age of 97. When he passed away, he still had performances lined up for the year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Joseph Willie "Pinetop" Perkins, a great blues legend from Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGEL
GOMEZ

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Gomez for selfless service to our community. He has helped thousands of

people through his non-profit, Operation HOPE Helping Other People Endure.

Selfless doesn't even begin to describe Angel Gomez.

Many lives have been touched by Angel, an appropriate name for a man with a heart the size of Texas.

A native of El Paso, Texas, he attended Bowie High School and later joined the United States Navy. He is a proud Bowie Bear Alumni and Veteran.

His real passion, other than serving his county in uniform, has always been helping others in need.

In 1995 he began volunteering his time to the community, with the support of his wife Patricia, daughter Rubi and other family members.

Seeing the growing need around him he co-founded Operation HOPE in 2009, and he has invested even more time and resources to help the El Paso Community he loves so much.

Operation HOPE has allowed Angel to share his vision of community outreach with thousands of people in need. He works with community partners and volunteers who share the same values and passion for giving, and these relationships have made it possible to multiply his efforts to improve our community.

Over the past seventeen years, El Paso residents have received food baskets during the holidays, along with blankets, clothing, and medical supplies. Hospitalized children that were hospitalized have received toys and gift baskets to lift their spirits. Hundreds of persons with disabilities have received assistance with medical supplies, medications, durable medical equipment, and accessible ramps. And families have received assistance with funeral expenses and spiritual support during their time of need.

To others, the donated items and arrangements made may not seem like much, but behind each action is something intangible, something money can't buy: hope.

On behalf of the El Paso community, I would like to thank Angel Gomez for all he has done for those in need and for the positive impact he continues to have in our community.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS.
TONY AND MARY CARDOSO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthdays and 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Mary Cardoso. The life that Tony and Mary have built together over the past sixty years is an inspiration to all of us. Their story is reflective of the American Dream, working hard to create better lives for themselves and their children.

Anthony Bernard Cardoso was born in Lemoore, California, on October 16, 1922. When Tony was 20 years old, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during the height of World War II. He proudly served our country for six years, spending time overseas on the Marshall Islands and Hawaiian Islands as an aviation mechanic. Tony was honorably